



**U.S. Department of Justice**  
**Civil Rights Division**

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DJ 207-82-1

*Special Litigation Section - PHB*  
950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington DC 20530

December 21, 2011

**Via U.S. Mail**

Mr. Chris Stearns, Of Counsel  
Hobbs Straus Dean & Walker, LLP  
2120 L Street, N.W., Suite 700  
Washington, D.C. 20037  
Seattle Human Rights Commission  
810 Third Avenue, Suite 750  
Seattle, WA 98104

Re: Seattle Police Department

Dear Mr. Stearns:

We are writing to solicit your input as we go forward with developing a comprehensive agreement to address the police misconduct issues identified in our findings letter.

On December 16, 2011, we announced our findings that the Seattle Police Department (“SPD”) has engaged in a pattern or practice of constitutional violations by officers relating to the excessive use of force, in violation of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. We also highlighted serious concerns relating to discriminatory policing. Our letter can be found at: <http://www.justice.gov/crt/about/spl/seattlepd.php>. We based our findings on a thorough review of SPD’s practices. We reviewed thousands of documents, including SPD policies and procedures, use of force reports, and Office of Professional Accountability (“OPA”) investigative files. Additionally, we actively sought input and assistance from you and other members of the Seattle community. Over the course of the investigation, we spoke with hundreds of Seattle residents about their experiences with SPD, attended several Seattle community meetings, and also conducted several community focus groups. Your perspectives regarding SPD’s practices were critical components of our investigation.

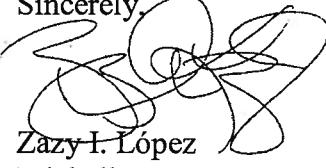
Now that DOJ has issued its findings, we will benefit from your continued engagement as we go about the task of developing reforms. Our ultimate goal is to enter into a written, court-enforceable agreement that sets forth remedial measures to be taken by the City of Seattle within a fixed period of time. As we work with the City of Seattle to implement reforms at SPD, we welcome any recommendations that you believe will address the issues raised by our Findings Letter. Please submit any recommended remedial measures or ideas to the Department of Justice at the below address:

Seattle Police Department Investigation  
c/o J. Michael Diaz  
Assistant United States Attorney  
United States Attorney's Office, Western District of Washington  
700 Stewart Street, Suite 5220  
Seattle, WA 98101-1271  
[Community.Seattle@usdoj.gov](mailto:Community.Seattle@usdoj.gov)  
(855) 203-4479 (toll free number)

To obtain additional community input, we intend to conduct community meetings and outreach in January, and investigator, Sarah Lopez, will be in contact with you on the particulars of these meetings. We look forward to working with you and others in the community in order to develop an effective blueprint for reform.

If you have any other questions about the investigation, please feel free to contact Ms. Lopez at (202) 305-0372.

Sincerely,



Zazy I. Lopez  
Michelle L. Leung  
Trial Attorneys  
Special Litigation Section  
Civil Rights Division



J. Michael Diaz  
Assistant United States Attorney  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Washington